This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Listing of Claims:

1-52 (canceled)

53. (currently amended) A peptide nucleic acid of the formula:

$$\begin{bmatrix} L_{m} \\ A_{m} \\ C_{m} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} G_{m} \\ C \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} G_{m} \\ G_{m} \end{bmatrix}$$

wherein:

m is an integer from 1 to about 50;

L and L_{m} independently are naturally occurring nucleobases;

C and C_m are $(CR^6R^7)_v$; wherein:

R⁶ and R⁷ are hydrogen:

R³ is hydrogen;

D and D_m are $(CR^6R^7)_z$;

y is 1 and z is 2;

G_m is -NR³CO- in either orientation;

each pair of A-A_m and B-B_m are >N-C(O)-CH₂-;

I is -NR⁸R⁹ or -NR¹⁰C(O)R¹¹; wherein:

R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰ and R¹¹ independently are hydrogen, alkyl, an amino protecting group, a reporter ligand, an intercalator, a chelator, a peptide, a protein, a carbohydrate, a lipid, a steroid, a nucleoside, a nucleotide, a nucleotide diphosphate, a nucleotide triphosphate, an oligonucleotide, an oligonucleoside, a soluble polymer, a non-soluble polymer, a reporter enzyme, a reporter molecule, a terpene, a phospholipid, a cell receptor binding molecule, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid

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soluble vitamin, an RNA/DNA cleaving complex, a porphyrin, or a polymeric compound selected from polymeric amines, polymeric glycols and polyethers; and Q is -CO₂H, -CO₂R⁹, or -CONR⁸R⁹.

54-62 (canceled)

- 63. (previously presented). The peptide nucleic acid of claim 53 wherein R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰ and R¹¹ independently are hydrogen, alkyl, a peptide, a protein, a carbohydrate, a nucleoside, a nucleotide, a nucleotide diphosphate, a nucleotide triphosphate, an oligonucleotide, or an oligonucleoside.
- 64. (previously presented). The peptide nucleic acid of claim 53 wherein R^8 , R^9 , R^{10} and R^{11} independently are a nucleoside, a nucleotide, an oligonucleotide, or an oligonucleoside.